



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, February 29, 2008**

**HB 5631, An Act Concerning An Income Tax Deduction For Expenses
Associated With Organ Donation**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 5631, An Act Concerning An Income Tax Deduction For Expenses Associated With Organ Donation**, which would provide a tax deduction in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to individuals who are living organ donors.

Patients in need of organ transplants are dying because of the scarcity of organs. According to data from the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, there are currently 98,000 individuals awaiting organ transplants. Each day, about 77 people receive organ transplants. However, 19 people die each day waiting for transplants that can't take place because of the shortage of donated organs.

HB 5631 would remove financial disincentives for people who donate human organs. Currently, individuals who are living organ donors personally cover the cost for travel expenses for the numerous trips to the hospital and lost wages. A tax deduction would go a long way toward reimbursing an individual for expenses associated with organ donation.

Thank you for consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.